



## 2002 Wetlands Reserve Program

### Program Focus

Illinois WRP focuses efforts on significant historical wetlands, such as the Cache River wetlands in southern Illinois. Located at the junction of four physiographic regions, the Cache is a melting pot for flora and fauna. In 1994, the Ramsar Convention of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized the biological and international importance of the Cache.

The Cache has been greatly altered over the past century, and today only 9% of presettlement wetlands remain. NRCS works through a multi-disciplined partnership to reverse the trend of wetland loss and to restore the Cache wetlands. Since 1995, approximately 10,000 acres have been acquired and restored. Another 2,000 eligible acres await funding.

NRCS works through similar projects throughout Illinois. WRP helped to restore more than 8,000 acres of Mississippi River alluvial valley bottomland hardwoods in southwest Illinois. Through yet another project at Carlyle Lake, WRP has served to restore more than 4,000 acres in the Kaskaskia River watershed.

*Restored Moist Soil Wetland*



### Illinois

#### Overview

In Illinois more than 85% of historic wetlands have been lost to development and modification of natural drainage patterns. Loss of wetlands has resulted in greatly reduced and compromised wildlife habitat, increased drainage and flooding issues, and issues with erosion and sedimentation.

The goal of WRP is to purchase and restore easements with the greatest potential for successful restoration with maximum benefits to the resource base. NRCS works in partnership with locally-led organizations to develop project areas, which provide NRCS with the ability to cluster a number of easements within single watersheds where real benefits can be realized. These clustered wetlands maximize improvements to wildlife habitat, protect and restore wetland diversity, improve wildlife habitat, mitigate flooding, reduce impacts of erosion and sedimentation, and improve water quality. Monies are leveraged with partners to accomplish project objectives determined by local work groups.

#### Accomplishments

Illinois has entered into a total of 259 WRP contracts for 50,562 acres since the program was implemented in 1994. NRCS technical specialists use detailed NRCS soils data and technical standards to develop plans that restore wetlands to historic hydrology to the greatest extent possible. Restoration is accomplished with construction of low-level berms with water management structures and excavation of shallow depressions and sloughs to create wetland diversity. Vegetation planting plans are also developed to restore the historic vegetation component to the easement.



#### Program Benefits

The primary benefit of WRP is the large-scale restoration of habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife. Wetland restoration in Illinois also helps protect and improve water quality, attenuate flooding, and recharge groundwater. WRP easements create recreational opportunities and contribute to educational and scientific scholarship. From an economic standpoint, the program provides a financial benefit to landowners who retire marginal cropland from production and receive fair market value for the land.

#### State Contact

David E. Hiatt, WRP Program Manager  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1001 N. York, Martinsville, IL 62442  
(217) 382-4123, Ext 3  
[Dave.Hiatt@il.usda.gov](mailto:Dave.Hiatt@il.usda.gov)

## Illinois Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2002		Cumulative Total (97-02)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 8	\$0	0	\$144,000	1
District 12	\$2,237,900	3	\$14,250,000	49
District 14	\$0	0	\$140,000	1
District 15	0	0	\$690,000	6
District 16	\$0	0	\$225,000	12
District 17	\$0	0	\$1,561,087	18
District 18	\$0	0	\$985,000	7
District 19	\$7,762,100	11	\$12,600,000	37
District 20	\$0	0	\$8,280,000	47
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$38,875,087</b>	<b>178</b>

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. *in Fiscal Year 2002 before redistricting took effect.*